



General Assembly

January Session, 2011

***Raised Bill No. 6320***

LCO No. 2579

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Referred to Committee on Education

Introduced by:  
(ED)

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE INCLUSION OF HUMANE EDUCATION IN  
THE PUBLIC SCHOOL CURRICULUM.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 10-16b of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2011*):

3 (a) In the public schools the program of instruction offered shall  
4 include at least the following subject matter, as taught by legally  
5 qualified teachers, the arts; career education; consumer education;  
6 health and safety, including, but not limited to, human growth and  
7 development, nutrition, first aid, disease prevention, community and  
8 consumer health, physical, mental and emotional health, including  
9 youth suicide prevention, substance abuse prevention, safety, which  
10 may include the dangers of gang membership, and accident  
11 prevention; language arts, including reading, writing, grammar,  
12 speaking and spelling; mathematics; physical education; science; social  
13 studies, including, but not limited to, citizenship, economics,  
14 geography, government and history; and in addition, on at least the  
15 secondary level, one or more foreign languages and vocational  
16 education. For purposes of this subsection, language arts may include

17 American sign language or signed English, provided such subject  
18 matter is taught by a qualified instructor under the supervision of a  
19 teacher who holds a certificate issued by the State Board of Education.  
20 For purposes of this subsection, the "arts" means any form of visual or  
21 performing arts, which may include, but not be limited to, dance,  
22 music, art and theatre.

23 (b) If a local or regional board of education requires its pupils to  
24 take a course in a foreign language, the parent or guardian of a pupil  
25 identified as deaf or hearing impaired may request in writing that such  
26 pupil be exempted from such requirement and, if such a request is  
27 made, such pupil shall be exempt from such requirement.

28 (c) Each local and regional board of education shall on September 1,  
29 1982, and annually thereafter at such time and in such manner as the  
30 Commissioner of Education shall request, attest to the State Board of  
31 Education that such local or regional board of education offers at least  
32 the program of instruction required pursuant to this section, and that  
33 such program of instruction is planned, ongoing and systematic.

34 (d) The State Board of Education shall make available curriculum  
35 materials and such other materials as may assist local and regional  
36 boards of education in developing instructional programs pursuant to  
37 this section. The State Board of Education, within available  
38 appropriations and utilizing available resource materials, shall assist  
39 and encourage local and regional boards of education to include: (1)  
40 Holocaust education and awareness; (2) the historical events  
41 surrounding the Great Famine in Ireland; (3) African-American  
42 history; (4) Puerto Rican history; (5) Native American history; (6)  
43 personal financial management; and (7) topics approved by the state  
44 board upon the request of local or regional boards of education as part  
45 of the program of instruction offered pursuant to subsection (a) of this  
46 section.

47 (e) To the extent that funds become available from third-party  
48 donors, the State Board of Education shall consult with animal welfare

49 organizations to develop a curriculum of humane education to be  
50 distributed to local and regional boards of education. Such curriculum  
51 shall include, but not be limited to, principles of humane education,  
52 pet care, the humane treatment of animals and the promotion of  
53 compassion, empathy and the respectful treatment of other people,  
54 animals and the environment.

55       Sec. 2. Section 10-220a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
56 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2011*):

57       (a) Each local or regional board of education shall provide an in-  
58 service training program for its teachers, administrators and pupil  
59 personnel who hold the initial educator, provisional educator or  
60 professional educator certificate. Such program shall provide such  
61 teachers, administrators and pupil personnel with information on (1)  
62 the nature and the relationship of drugs, as defined in subdivision (17)  
63 of section 21a-240, and alcohol to health and personality development,  
64 and procedures for discouraging their abuse, (2) health and mental  
65 health risk reduction education which includes, but need not be  
66 limited to, the prevention of risk-taking behavior by children and the  
67 relationship of such behavior to substance abuse, pregnancy, sexually  
68 transmitted diseases, including HIV-infection and AIDS, as defined in  
69 section 19a-581, violence, teen dating violence, domestic violence, child  
70 abuse and youth suicide, (3) the growth and development of  
71 exceptional children, including handicapped and gifted and talented  
72 children and children who may require special education, including,  
73 but not limited to, children with attention-deficit hyperactivity  
74 disorder or learning disabilities, and methods for identifying, planning  
75 for and working effectively with special needs children in a regular  
76 classroom, (4) school violence prevention, conflict resolution and  
77 prevention of bullying, as defined in subsection (a) of section 10-222d,  
78 except that those boards of education that implement an evidence-  
79 based model approach, consistent with subsection (d) of section 10-  
80 145a, subsection (a) of section 10-220a, sections 10-222d, 10-222g and  
81 10-222h, subsection (g) of section 10-233c and sections 1 and 3 of public

82 act 08-160, shall not be required to provide in-service training on  
83 prevention of bullying, (5) cardiopulmonary resuscitation and other  
84 emergency life saving procedures, (6) computer and other information  
85 technology as applied to student learning and classroom instruction,  
86 communications and data management, (7) the teaching of the  
87 language arts, reading and reading readiness for teachers in grades  
88 kindergarten to three, inclusive, and (8) second language acquisition in  
89 districts required to provide a program of bilingual education  
90 pursuant to section 10-17f. Each local and regional board of education  
91 may allow any paraprofessional or noncertified employee to  
92 participate, on a voluntary basis, in any in-service training program  
93 provided pursuant to this section. The State Board of Education,  
94 within available appropriations and utilizing available materials, shall  
95 assist and encourage local and regional boards of education to include:  
96 (A) Holocaust education and awareness; (B) the historical events  
97 surrounding the Great Famine in Ireland; (C) African-American  
98 history; (D) Puerto Rican history; (E) Native American history; (F)  
99 personal financial management; (G) domestic violence and teen dating  
100 violence; and (H) topics approved by the state board upon the request  
101 of local or regional boards of education as part of in-service training  
102 programs pursuant to this subsection.

103 (b) Not later than a date prescribed by the commissioner, each local  
104 and regional board of education shall establish a professional  
105 development committee consisting of certified employees, and such  
106 other school personnel as the board deems appropriate, including  
107 representatives of the exclusive bargaining representative for such  
108 employees chosen pursuant to subsection (b) of section 10-153. The  
109 duties of such committees shall include, but not be limited to, the  
110 development, evaluation and annual updating of a comprehensive  
111 local professional development plan for certified employees of the  
112 district. Such plan shall: (1) Be directly related to the educational goals  
113 prepared by the local or regional board of education pursuant to  
114 subsection (b) of section 10-220, (2) on and after July 1, 2011, be  
115 developed with full consideration of the priorities and needs related to

116 student outcomes as determined by the State Board of Education, and  
117 (3) provide for the ongoing and systematic assessment and  
118 improvement of both teacher evaluation and professional  
119 development of the professional staff members of each such board,  
120 including personnel management and evaluation training or  
121 experience for administrators, shall be related to regular and special  
122 student needs and may include provisions concerning career  
123 incentives and parent involvement. The State Board of Education shall  
124 develop guidelines to assist local and regional boards of education in  
125 determining the objectives of the plans and in coordinating staff  
126 development activities with student needs and school programs.

127 (c) The Department of Education, in cooperation with one or more  
128 regional educational service centers, is authorized to provide institutes  
129 annually for Connecticut educators. Such institutes shall serve as  
130 model programs of professional development and shall be taught by  
131 exemplary Connecticut teachers and administrators and by other  
132 qualified individuals as selected by the Department of Education. The  
133 Department of Education shall charge fees for attending such institutes  
134 provided such fees shall be based on the actual cost of such institutes.

135 (d) The Department of Education may fund, within available  
136 appropriations, in cooperation with one or more regional educational  
137 service centers: (1) A cooperating teacher program to train Connecticut  
138 public school teachers and certified teachers at private special  
139 education facilities approved by the Commissioner of Education and at  
140 other facilities designated by the commissioner, who participate in the  
141 supervision, training and evaluation of student teachers; and (2)  
142 institutes to provide continuing education for Connecticut public  
143 school educators and cooperating teachers, including institutes to  
144 provide continuing education for Connecticut public school educators  
145 offered in cooperation with the Connecticut Humanities Council.  
146 Funds available under this subsection shall be paid directly to school  
147 districts for the provision of substitute teachers when cooperating  
148 teachers are released from regular classroom responsibilities and for

149 the provision of professional development activities for cooperating  
150 and student teachers. The cooperating teacher program shall operate in  
151 accordance with regulations adopted by the State Board of Education  
152 in accordance with chapter 54, except in cases of placement in other  
153 countries pursuant to written cooperative agreements between  
154 Connecticut institutions of higher education and institutions of higher  
155 education in other countries. A Connecticut institution may enter such  
156 an agreement only if the State Board of Education and Board of  
157 Governors of Higher Education have jointly approved the institution's  
158 teacher preparation program to enter into such agreements. Student  
159 teachers shall be placed with trained cooperating teachers.  
160 Cooperating teachers who are Connecticut public school teachers shall  
161 be selected by local and regional boards of education. Cooperating  
162 teachers at such private special education and other designated  
163 facilities shall be selected by the authority responsible for the operation  
164 of such facilities. If a board of education is unable to identify a  
165 sufficient number of individuals to serve in such positions, the  
166 commissioner may select qualified persons who are not employed by  
167 the board of education to serve in such positions. Such regulations  
168 shall require primary consideration of teachers' classroom experience  
169 and recognized success as educators. The provisions of sections 10-  
170 153a to 10-153n, inclusive, shall not be applicable to the selection,  
171 placement and compensation of persons participating in the  
172 cooperating teacher program pursuant to the provisions of this section  
173 and to the hours and duties of such persons. The State Board of  
174 Education shall protect and save harmless, in accordance with the  
175 provisions of section 10-235, any cooperating teacher while serving in  
176 such capacity.

177 (e) To the extent that funds become available from third-party  
178 donors, the State Board of Education shall assist and encourage local  
179 and regional boards of education to include the teaching of the  
180 principles of humane education, as described in subsection (e) of  
181 section 10-16b, as amended by this act, as part of its in-service training  
182 program pursuant to this section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
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Section 1	<i>July 1, 2011</i>	10-16b
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2011</i>	10-220a

***Statement of Purpose:***

To encourage the inclusion of principles of humane education in the curriculum of public schools and the in-service training program for teachers and school administrators.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*